

REMARKS

Sequence Listing

In Applicants' previous response (dated February 7, 2007), the specification was amended to provide a revised sequence listing. Specifically, the CDR1 amino acid sequence of the light chain variable region of antibody AB12, as represented by SEQ ID NO:38, contained a typographical error when compared with the corresponding amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 1. That is, SEQ ID NO:38 (in the originally filed sequence listing) incorrectly included the amino acid sequence RASQSVSSSYLA, which should have been RASQSVSSYLA as depicted in Figure 1. The revised sequence listing provided in Applicants' response dated February 7, 2007 corrected the typographical error in SEQ ID NO:38. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the revised sequence listing be entered.

Claim Amendments

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 99-102 have been indicated allowable. Applicants also note with appreciation that the Examiner has searched and examined each of the antibody sequences specifically recited in the claims, as requested by Applicants in response to the previous restriction requirement.

Claims 2-11, 13, 15, 17, 19-24, 28-30, 32-34, 36-38, and 40-108 were pending. Claims 22-24, 28-30, 32-34, 36-38, 51, 52, 57-66, 68-98, 103-108 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2-11, 13, 15, 17, 19-21, 40, 43, 46, 49, 53, 54, 55, and 67 have been amended.

Specifically, claims 2-6, 20, 21, 40, 43, 46, 49, 53-55, and 67 have been amended to depend from any one of claims 99-102.

Claim 5 has been further amended to specify the binding affinity of the antibody.

Claims 7-11, 13, 15, 17, and 19 have been amended to be in independent form and to remove reference to "conservative sequence modifications" or "% homology."

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found throughout the application as originally filed. The foregoing claim amendments should in no way be construed as acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and were made solely to expedite prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims to the canceled subject matter, or any subject matter which they are entitled to claim, in this or a separate application. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims 19 and 56 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 19 and 56 are rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, to expedite prosecution, independent claim 19 has been amended to remove reference to antibodies having variable domains having amino acid sequences which are at least 90% homologous to particular SEQ ID NOs. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Rejection of Claims 7-11, 13, 15, 17, 19-24, 28-30, 32-34, 36-38, 40-50, 53, 54, 56, and 67***Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph***

Claims 7-11, 13, 15, 17, 19-24, 28-30, 32-34, 36-38, 40-50, 53, 54, 56, and 67 are rejected as not being enabled. Applicants respectfully disagree. However, to expedite prosecution, claims 7-11, 13, 15, 17, 19-24, 28-30, 32-34, 36-38, 40-50, 53, 54, 56, and 67 have either been canceled or amended to depend from claims 99-102, which are not subject to this rejection. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Rejection of Claims 2-11, 13, 15, 17, 19-21, 40-56, and 67***Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph***

Claims 2-11, 13, 15, 17, 19-21, 40-56, and 67 are rejected as being indefinite with respect to the phrase “derived from ... germline sequence” in claims 51 and 52. Claims 2-11, 13, 15, 17, 19-21, 40-56, and 67 are also deemed indefinite “as being incomplete for omitting essential elements,” such as “the transgenic mouse comprising the genetically inserted germline sequences of claims 51 and 52.” Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution, claims 51 and 52 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

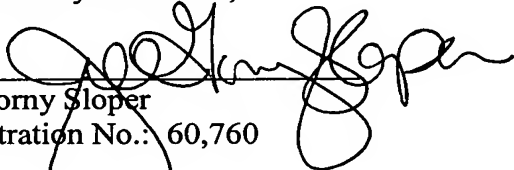
Claim 5 is rejected as being indefinite based on the phrases “of about 10-8 or less,” “preferably about...,” “more preferably about...,” and “or even less.” Based on the foregoing amendment of claim 5, this rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION

If a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would help expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

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Respectfully submitted,

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